

# News from the FPPC



California Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814  
[www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)

**For Immediate Release: October 20, 2006**  
**Contact: Jon Matthews, Whitney Barazoto at (916) 322-7761**

## **Free, On-Line Local Ethics Training (AB 1234) Now Available on FPPC Website**

A free, on-line training program allowing local officials to satisfy the requirements of a new local ethics training law was launched this week on the FPPC's website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).

On October 7, 2005, the Governor signed Assembly Bill No. 1234. This law requires (among other things) that all local agencies providing compensation, salary, or stipend to, or reimbursing the expenses of, members of a legislative body must provide ethics training to local agency officials by January 1, 2007, and every two years thereafter.

There are numerous training options available for local officials, including training conducted by commercial organizations, nonprofit groups, or an agency's own legal counsel. However, the Fair Political Practices Commission and other interested parties wanted to ensure that local officials could satisfy the AB 1234 requirements at no cost. Those wishing to access this training program on the FPPC's website can simply click on the "AB 1234 Ethics Training for Local Officials" link on the left side of our home page.

After completing the training, an official is given the opportunity to print a certificate of completion to provide to his or her agency. The program is self-service and officials are cautioned that copies of certificates are not retained by the program or the website.

The FPPC extends its sincere thanks to the Institute for Local Government, the County of Monterey and the state and local agencies and officials that helped develop and test the training program. Other organizations and agencies are also putting up prominent web links to the program.

Previously, at its January 2006 meeting, the FPPC adopted new regulation 18371 to assist in the implementation of the new local ethics training requirement. Since the new law, Government Code section 53235, is not in the Political Reform Act, the commission's role in interpreting this section is limited to the consultation requirement regarding the ethics training course. However, the commission moved quickly to adopt the new regulation, launch a special AB 1234 information page on its website and assist in the development of the training program in an effort to be as helpful as possible to local agencies.

#####